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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3629	

DATE MAILED: 08/29/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 07-01)

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-46* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-46* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>22 December 1999</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>3</u> .

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other:

Detailed Action

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims **2-12** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 2-12 refer to a "system" in claim 1, however, claim 1 does not recite a system.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

1.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

1.   Claims **1-16; 23; 33-40; 46** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Brown et al. (U.S. Patent 6337743).

1-1.   *Regarding Claim* **1**;

Brown discloses:

- a printer driver for association with a data stream being presented to a printer, data stream adapted to enable said printer to print on one or more sheets of paper information in accordance with said data stream, said data stream containing certain data bits useful for controlling functions additional to said printed. (*Abstract, lines 3-8*, "The print stream is transmitted through a graphical driver interface to a virtual driver where a system operator can select a data interface mode such as an eavesdrop mode and an intercept mode. The eavesdrop mode allows the virtual driver to pass the print stream through to the output device"); whereas as output device can be a printer.

- means for abstracting at least a portion of said certain data bits from said data stream (*Column 7, lines 17-22*, "The selected data interface mode interfaces with an address parsing application or data extraction module resident in which parses the print stream to identify address data resident in the print stream, or extracts data from the print stream based upon pre-determined extraction criteria.")

- means for using at least some of said abstracted data for controlling at least one of said additional functions. (*Column 7, lines 22-23*, "The identified address data or extracted data file is then saved in a database located within for future use.")

1-2.   *Regarding claim* **2**;

Brown further discloses:

- at least one additional function is the printing of address information on material separate from said printing. (*Column 1, lines 64-67*, "the system operator can: manually correct an address record on the list; delete the address record; or, output the address record to a printer for non-discounted mailing.")

1-3.   *Regarding claims* **3** and **35**;

Brown further discloses:

- at least one additional function is the printing of a postage indicia on material separate from said printing. (*Column 2, lines 34-37*, "The value of the perfected files in the address database become readily apparent when the lists are printed to media when forming individual mailpieces to which postage is to be applied.")

1-4.   *Regarding claim* **4**;

Brown further discloses:

- at least one additional function is a dialog box for allowing options from a user. (*Column 1, lines 64-67*, "the system operator can: manually correct an address record on the list; delete the address record; or, output the address record to a printer for non-discounted mailing.") whereas these options are available to use similarly as a dialog box.

1-5.   *Regarding claim* **5**;

Brown further discloses:

- at least one additional function is accepting additional data from another source. (*Column 9, lines 39-41*, "the automation server can be configured to save additional information about the print job (i.e., number of pages, username, etc.) with each address in the database.")

1-5.   *Regarding claim* **6**;

Brown further discloses:

- at least one additional function is directing the abstracted portion to multiple locations. (*Column 11, lines 24-28*, "It should be noted that the print stream environment can have more than one output device available for outputting the print stream. In the case of multiple available printers, for instance, a particular printer is selected for downloading of the print stream.")

1-6.   *Regarding claim* **7**;

Brown further discloses:

- at least one additional function is storage in a memory. (*Column 5, lines 59-61*, "an address is determined from a print stream and retained in a memory for future use.")

1-7.   *Regarding claim* **8**;

Brown further discloses:
- at least one additional function is directing the abstracted portion to a viewable medium. (*Abstract, lines 13-15*, "The server will in turn pass the print stream to an output device such as a printer or monitor over transmission means.")

1-8.   *Regarding claim* **9**;

Brown further discloses:

- at least one additional function is the changing of form of the data.(*Column 10, lines 21-25*, "By interfacing with an interchangeable parsing module, the automation server is able to extract addresses of varied format.)

1-9.   *Regarding claim* **10**;

Brown further discloses:

- at least one additional function is the delivery of said data to a location remote from said printer driver. (*Column 5, lines 44-46*, "a print stream generated at a remote site is downloaded to a printer for output.")

1-10. *Regarding claim* **11**;

Brown further discloses:

- at least one additional function is the change in location and/or format of the data based upon an interaction between certain data in said data stream and data stored in said printer driver. (*Column 10, lines 21-25*, "By interfacing with an interchangeable parsing module, the automation server is able to extract addresses of varied format; and *Column 6 lines 11-14*, "The printer can be any one of a number of commercially available printers that are capable of being networked with two or more remote locations.")

1-11. *Regarding claim* **12**;

Brown further discloses:

- printer driver is operable on said data stream coming from a program operating in a computing device to control at least a portion of the printing of said printer. (*Column 12, lines 8-11*, "modes can be pre-determined as well by the system user. The system then proceeds where the virtual driver is interfaced with the extraction or input modules.")

1-12. *Regarding claims* **13** and **38**;

Brown further discloses:

- wherein said printer driver is located remote from said computing device. (*Column 4, lines 58-65*, "The method of determination begins by initiating the print stream at a remote application. The remote location initiating the print stream typically comprises a microprocessor for manipulating data and a print stream application operatively connected to the microprocessor for creating the print stream. The print stream application can be a word processing application or similar type application that requires downloading to a printer.")

1-13. *Regarding claims* **14** and **39**;

Brown further discloses:

- wherein said printer driver is located within printer. (*Column 7, lines 50-23*, "printer controller operatively connected to printer")

1-14. *Regarding claims* **15** and **40**;

Brown further discloses:

- wherein said abstracting means includes: means for examining said data stream for certain preestablished data patterns. (*Column 8, lines 55-57*, "The method advances from where either the eavesdrop or the intercept mode is selected by the system user. The modes could be predetermined as well by the system user.")

1-15. *Regarding claims* **16** and **46**;

Brown further discloses data patterns are selected from the list including:

- return address, destination address, mailing date, number of pages, type of inserts, mailing service type, postage indicia, bar codes, tracking codes, control codes, graphics, application types. (*Column 9, lines 35-41*, "By interfacing with an interchangeable parsing module, the automation server is able to extract addresses of varied format. Additionally, the automation server can be configured to save additional information about the print job (i.e., number of pages, username, etc.) with each address in the database.")

1-23. *Regarding claim* **23**;

Brown further discloses:

- sending a data stream to a printing device so that said printing device may print one or more documents from said data stream; (*Column 5, lines 11-15*, "The eavesdrop mode allows the virtual driver to pass the print stream through to the output device and wherein further the eavesdrop mode produces a duplicate copy of the print stream for transmission to a server")

- reviewing said data stream to create therefrom a separate data stream for controlling additional functions with respect to said printing of said documents. (*Column 1, lines 64-67*, "the system operator can: manually correct an address record on the list; delete the address record; or, output the address record to a printer for non-discounted mailing.")

1-24.   *Regarding claim 33;*

Brown further discloses a computer program product for use in association with a data stream being directed to a general purpose printer, said data stream adapted to enable said printer to print information in accordance with said data stream, said computer product comprising:

- an abstracting program operable for reviewing said data stream to obtain therefrom information for controlling printing operations ancillary to said printing operation (*Column 11, lines 54-58,* "The extraction module is similar to the parsing module in that it will interface with the print stream to extract data from the stream. However, the extraction module can be used to select specifically defined data fields, such as: name; date; or subject fields.")

- a controller working in cooperation with said abstracting program and with said obtained information for enabling at least one said ancillary printing operation. (*Abstract, lines 7-11,* "The eavesdrop mode allows the virtual driver to pass the print stream through to the output device while producing a duplicate copy of the print stream for transmission to a server which is linked to an address parsing module for parsing the print stream.")

1-25.   *Regarding claims 34;*

Brown further discloses:

- at least one ancillary operation is the printing of address information on material separate from material on which printing is occurring. (*Column 9, lines 1-6,* " the addresses are placed into an address database which can be further formatted in the form of an address list. The address is retained in the address database for future use which might include a print run to mailpieces for subsequent postal service delivery.")

1-26.   *Regarding claim 37;*

Brown further discloses:

- computer product is operable on said data stream coming from a general purpose computing device (*Abstract, lines 7-15,* "the eavesdrop mode allows the virtual driver to pass the print stream through to the output device while producing a duplicate copy of the print stream for transmission to a server which is linked to an address parsing module for parsing the print stream."); whereas server is a computing device.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2.   Claims **17-22; 24-32; 41-45** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown et al (U.S. Patent 6337743).

2-1.   Regarding claim **17**;

Brown does not explicitly disclose:

- preestablished data patterns include the beginning and ending of postage indicia data.

It would have been an obvious manner of design choice to modify the teachings of Brown to provide preestablished data patterns include the beginning and ending of postage indicia data.

Since the applicant has not disclosed that preestablished data patterns include the beginning and ending of postage indicia data solves any stated problem in a new or unexpected way or is for any particular purpose which is unobvious to one of ordinary skill, and it appears that the claimed feature does not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art since the teachings of Brown will perform the invention as claimed by the applicant with any method, means, or product.

2-2.   *Regarding claims* **18** *and* **42**;

Brown does not explicitly disclose:

- function is the printing of said postage indicia on a document other than the document to which said data stream is being directed.

It would have been an obvious manner of design choice to modify the teachings of Brown to provide the method function is the printing postage indicia on a document other than the document to data stream is being directed.

Since the applicant has not disclosed that function is the printing postage indicia on a document other than the document to data stream is being directed solves any stated problem in a new or unexpected way or is for any particular purpose which is unobvious to one of ordinary skill, and

it appears that the claimed feature does not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art since the teachings of Brown will perform the invention as claimed by the applicant with any method, means, or product.

2-3.   *Regarding claims* **19** and **43**;

Brown does not explicitly disclose:

- preestablished data patterns include the beginning and ending of address information contained within said data stream.

It would have been an obvious manner of design choice to modify the teachings of Brown to provide the method of preestablished data patterns include the beginning and ending of address information contained within said data stream.

Since the applicant has not disclosed that preestablished data patterns include the beginning and ending of address information contained within said data stream solves any stated problem in a new or unexpected way or is for any particular purpose which is unobvious to one of ordinary skill, and it appears that the claimed feature does not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art since the teachings of Brown will perform the invention as claimed by the applicant with any method, means, or product.

2-3.   *Regarding claims* **20** and **44**;

Brown does disclose:

- addresses placed into an address database which can be further formatted in the form of an address list.

However, Brown does not explicitly disclose:

- means for creating from address information data for controlling the printing of a postage indicia.

It would have been an obvious manner of design choice to modify the teachings of Brown to provide means for creating from address information data for controlling the printing of a postage indicia.

Since the applicant has not disclosed that means for creating from address information data for controlling the printing of a postage indicia solves any stated problem in a new or unexpected way or is for any particular purpose which is unobvious to one of ordinary skill, and it appears that the claimed feature does not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art since the teachings of Brown will perform the invention as claimed by the applicant with any method, means, or product.

2-4.   *Regarding claims* **21** and **45**;

Brown does not explicitly disclose:

- preestablished data patterns include the beginning and ending of each document to be printed   ,

It would have been an obvious manner of design choice to modify the teachings of Brown to provide preestablished data patterns include the beginning and ending of each document to be printed.

Since the applicant has not disclosed that preestablished data patterns include the beginning and ending of each document to be printed solves any stated problem in a new or unexpected way or is for any particular purpose which is unobvious to one of ordinary skill, and it appears that the claimed feature does not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art since the teachings of Brown will perform the invention as claimed by the applicant with any method, means, or product.

2-5.   *Regarding claim* **22**;

Brown does disclose:

- "By interfacing with an interchangeable parsing module, the automation server is able to extract addresses of varied format. Additionally, the automation server can be configured to save additional information about the print job (i.e., number of pages, username, etc.) with each address in the database."

However, Brown does not explicitly disclose:

- preestablished data patterns include the number of pages of a document.

It would have been an obvious manner of design choice to modify the teachings of Brown to provide a preestablished data patterns include the number of pages of a document.

Since the applicant has not disclosed that a preestablished data patterns include the number of pages of a document solves any stated problem in a new or unexpected way or is for any particular purpose which is unobvious to one of ordinary skill, and it appears that the claimed feature does not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art since the teachings of Brown will perform the invention as claimed by the applicant with any method, means, or product.

2-6.   *Regarding claim* **24**;

Brown does disclose:

- additional information about the print job (i.e., number of pages, username, etc.) with each address in the database

However, Brown does not explicitly disclose:

- additional functions are selected from the list including printing address information, printing postage indicia, folding a printed document, stuffing a printed document into an envelope, creating a mailing address for the delivery of a printed document, creating a postage indicia, creating an auxiliary document in association with a printed document, controlling a second printer operating in conjunction with said printer, verifying the address, normalizing the address, adding delivery bar codes.

It would have been an obvious manner of design choice to modify the teachings of Brown to provide additional functions are selected from the list including printing address information, printing postage indicia, folding a printed document, stuffing a printed document into an envelope, creating a mailing address for the delivery of a printed document, creating a postage indicia, creating an auxiliary document in association with a printed document, controlling a second printer operating in conjunction with said printer, verifying the address, normalizing the address, adding delivery bar codes.

Since the applicant has not disclosed additional functions are selected from the list including printing address information, printing postage indicia, folding a printed document, stuffing a printed document into an envelope, creating a mailing address for the delivery of a printed document, creating a postage indicia, creating an auxiliary document in association with a printed document, controlling a second printer operating in conjunction with said printer, verifying the address, normalizing the address, adding delivery bar codes solves any stated problem in a new or unexpected way or is for any particular purpose which is unobvious to one of ordinary skill, and it appears that the claimed feature does not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art since the teachings of Brown will perform the invention as claimed by the applicant with any method, means, or product.

2-7.   *Regarding claim* **25**;

Brown does not explicitly disclose:

- reviewing step includes the step of copying from data stream certain portions of said data stream.

It would have been an obvious manner of design choice to modify the teachings of Brown to provide reviewing step includes the step of copying from data stream certain portions of said data stream.

Since the applicant has not disclosed that reviewing step includes the step of copying from data stream certain portions of said data stream solves any stated problem in a new or unexpected way or is for any particular purpose which is unobvious to one of ordinary skill, and it appears that the claimed feature does not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art since the teachings of Brown will perform the invention as claimed by the applicant with any method, means, or product.

2-7. Regarding claim 26;

Brown does not explicitly disclose:

- portions include address information with respect to a particular document to be printed

It would have been an obvious manner of design choice to modify the teachings of Brown to provide portions include address information with respect to a particular document to be printed.

Since the applicant has not disclosed that portions include address information with respect to a particular document to be printed solves any stated problem in a new or unexpected way or is for any particular purpose which is unobvious to one of ordinary skill, and it appears that the claimed feature does not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art since the teachings of Brown will perform the invention as claimed by the applicant with any method, means, or product.

2-8. Regarding claim 27;

Brown does not explicitly disclose:

- creating from said copied address information a postage indicia

It would have been an obvious manner of design choice to modify the teachings of Brown to provide creating from said copied address information a postage indicia.

Since the applicant has not disclosed that creating from said copied address information a postage indicia solves any stated problem in a new or unexpected way or is for any particular purpose which is unobvious to one of ordinary skill, and it appears that the claimed feature does not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art since the teachings of Brown will perform the invention as claimed by the applicant with any method, means, or product.

2-9.   *Regarding claims* **28** and **36**;

Brown does not explicitly disclose:

- data stream includes data accepted from a source other than data stream to printing device

It would have been an obvious manner of design choice to modify the teachings of Brown to provide data stream includes data accepted from a source other than data stream to printing device.

Since the applicant has not disclosed that data stream includes data accepted from a source other than data stream to printing device solves any stated problem in a new or unexpected way or is for any particular purpose which is unobvious to one of ordinary skill, and it appears that the claimed feature does not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art since the teachings of Brown will perform the invention as claimed by the applicant with any method, means, or product.

2-10.   *Regarding claim* **29**;

Brown does not explicitly disclose:

- maintaining in a secure memory an amount available for controlling the generation of a postage indicia

- calculating under joint control of said secure memory and said separate data stream an amount of postage to be applied to a particular document to be printed

- deducting said calculated postage amount from said secure memory if said calculated postage amount is available in said secure memory.

It would have been an obvious manner of design choice to modify the teachings of Brown to provide calculating under joint control of said secure memory and separate data stream an amount of postage to be applied to a particular document to be printed; deducting said calculated postage amount from said secure memory if said calculated postage amount is available in said secure memory.

Since the applicant has not disclosed that maintaining in a secure memory an amount available for controlling the generation of a postage indicia; calculating under joint control of said secure memory and separate data stream an amount of postage to be applied to a particular document to be printed; deducting said calculated postage amount from said secure memory if said calculated postage amount is available in said secure memory solves any stated problem in a new or unexpected way or is for any particular purpose which is unobvious to one of ordinary skill, and it appears that the claimed feature does not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art since the teachings of Brown will perform the invention as claimed by the applicant with any method, means, or product.

2-11. *Regarding claim* **30**;

Brown does not explicitly disclose:

- postage indicia information with respect to a particular document to be printed.

It would have been an obvious manner of design choice to modify the teachings of Brown to provide postage indicia information with respect to a particular document to be printed.

Since the applicant has not disclosed that postage indicia information with respect to a particular document to be printed solves any stated problem in a new or unexpected way or is for any particular purpose which is unobvious to one of ordinary skill, and it appears that the claimed feature does not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art since the teachings of Brown will perform the invention as claimed by the applicant with any method, means, or product.

2-12. *Regarding claim* **31**;

Brown does not explicitly disclose:

- enabling a dialog box.

It would have been an obvious manner of design choice to modify the teachings of Brown to provide a step enabling a dialog box.

Since the applicant has not disclosed that enabling a dialog box solves any stated problem in a new or unexpected way or is for any particular purpose which is unobvious to one of ordinary skill, and it appears that the claimed feature does not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art since the teachings of Brown will perform the invention as-claimed by the applicant with any method, means, or product.

2-13.   *Regarding claim* **32**;

Brown does not explicitly disclose:

- dialog box interacts with a user to provide at least one of the following:

- return address and logo data of mailing address verification/prompt for insufficient information

- review scanned data hints for scanning data stream additional cover page information or label/envelope

- customization delivery (mail service, fax, e-mail, etc.) options (postage amount, paper weight, weight of inserts, additional mail services)

It would have been an obvious manner of design choice to modify the teachings of Brown to provide a step return address and logo data of mailing address verification/prompt for insufficient information; review scanned data hints for scanning data stream additional cover page information or label/envelope; customization delivery (mail service, fax, e-mail, etc.) options (postage amount, paper weight, weight.

Since the applicant has not disclosed that return address and logo data of mailing address verification/prompt for insufficient information; review scanned data hints for scanning data stream additional cover page information or label/envelope; customization delivery (mail service, fax, e-mail, etc.) options (postage amount, paper weight, weight solves any stated problem in a new or unexpected way or is for any particular purpose which is unobvious to one of ordinary skill, and it appears that the claimed feature does not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art since the teachings of Brown will perform the invention as claimed by the applicant with any method, means, or product.

2-14.   *Regarding claim* **41**;

Brown does not explicitly disclose:

- preestablished data patterns include the beginning and ending of postage indicia data.

It would have been an obvious manner of design choice to modify the teachings of Brown to provide preestablished data patterns include the beginning and ending of postage indicia data.

Since the applicant has not disclosed that preestablished data patterns include the beginning and ending of postage indicia data solves any stated problem in a new or unexpected way or is for any particular purpose which is unobvious to one of ordinary skill, and it appears that the claimed feature does not distinguish the invention over similar features in the prior art since the teachings of Brown will perform the invention as claimed by the applicant with any method, means, or product.

Conclusions

Any communications concerning this communications or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Theoplis Stewart whose telephone number is (703) 305-5344. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) - 308-1113.

If in attempts to reach the examiner by phone is unsuccessfully, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached at 703-308-2702. Responses to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C 20231

8/19/02

T.E.S

JOHN G. WEISS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600